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ROBERT T. PANTZER,
UM PRESIDENT, TO RESIGN

MISSOULA--

Robert T. Pantzer, University of Montana president since 1966, today announced his resignation from the post effective June 30, 1974.

Pantzer, in an address to the UM faculty, said his decision to resign was made "in the interests of the university and for personal reasons."

He was appointed the 12th president of the University Dec. 16, 1966. He held the position of acting president from Aug. 15 to Dec. 15, 1966, and financial vice president and professor of business administration, both from 1957 - 1966.

Pantzer said, "It has long been my view that a president can effectively serve an institution of this type for but a limited period of time.

"This involves not only his personal well-being but more so that of the institution. The very nature of the position is such that the day-to-day administrative decisions always bring about varying degrees of disenchantment with the president in the minds of some.

"Also, though some presidents react otherwise, I have found the job to be almost completely time and energy consuming. The only way I seem to be able to go about it is on the basis of virtually a seven-day week schedule for each of the twelve months of a year."

Pantzer, although he announced no definite plans, said he would "participate in a few other interests which have been on my mind for some period of time.

"I want you to know that no issue, incident or problem has prompted this decision. Further, I have not been invited, requested or ordered to leave the position. I have made the decision of my own volition."

MORE

Pantzer, beginning his eighth year as UM president, said, "Most of those years have been fraught with new and unique problems; some never before faced by the nation's colleges and universities.

"During these years we have been in the heart of a social revolution in America and the world. Just recently the struggle to adequately fund our programs has been frustrating beyond words.

"This we know to be a time of vast change in higher education. In Montana with a new constitution, a new Regents' Board and a recently formed Commission on Post-Secondary Education, surely there will be many new thrilling opportunities, but also difficulties of a nature yet unknown. It seems to me to be a time ripe for changes also within the University. The time for new, different and vigorous approaches seems to be at hand."

Pantzer, who received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University in 1940, served with the 41st Infantry Division from December 1941 to November 1945, including 42 months of overseas service. Prior to his discharge with the rank of major, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Following graduation from the UMI law school with a Juris Doctor degree in 1947, he served as county attorney of Liberty County, Chester, until 1950. He was Park County attorney from 1951-1955 and city attorney in Livingston until accepting the UM post in 1957. He also conducted a private law practice for 10 years.

Rocky Mountain College in Billings awarded him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1970, and he received the same degree from Yankton College of South Dakota in 1972.

He is acting chairman of the Montana Committee for the Humanities of the National Endowment for the Humanities and a member of the board of directors of the Northwest College and University Association for Science.

Pantzer was born at Sheboygan, Wis., June 18, 1914. He was reared in Montana and his father still resides in Livingston.

He and his wife, the former Ann Prendergast of Butte, have three children.

Pantzer is a former president of the UM Alumni Association, the UM Law School Alumni Association, the Livingston Chamber of Commerce and the Livingston Rotary Club. He also has held offices or trustee positions in the Elks, Livingston Memorial Hospital and the Missoula Chamber of Commerce.